U.S. General Services Administration

General Services Administration

Policy, the Procurement Process, the Buy Accessible Wizard, and Purchasing Section 508 Compliant Products & Services

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Why is Section 508 Important?

- Section 508 creates binding and enforceable provisions and incorporates these provisions into the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR).
- Section 508 technical provisions need to be used in all electronic and information technology (EIT) acquisitions of products and services.

Why is Section 508 Important?

- It eliminates barriers for people with disabilities
- Supports Federal initiatives
- Benefits everyone
- Achieves legal compliance
- Promotes positive public image
- Facilitates public access to Federal information

It's the law!

What does Section 508 Apply To?

- Section 508 applies to ALL contract vehicles and procurement actions, including micro-purchases.
- All EIT that is “procured, maintained, developed, or used”

Who does Section 508 Apply To?

Section 508 applies to the Federal Government and the US Postal Service

What Are Agencies Required To Do?

- *Agencies* are responsible for Section 508 compliance, *not industry*
- *Agencies* must determine if and how the Section 508 Standard applies, *not industry*
- *Agencies* must conduct market research to determine Section 508 requirements, not just pick a product
- ***Agencies must reflect their Section 508 requirements in acquisition solicitations***

How Long can you wait for Section 508 Compliance?

Section 508 Policy

- Acquisition Process
- Section 508 Refresh
- FAR
- Section 508 Assessments
- OMB Directives
- VPATS/GAPTS
- Buy Accessible Wizard Tool

Acquisition Process for Accessible EIT

Agency Responsibility and Regulations

NEED → REQUIREMENT → RESEARCH → SOLICITATION → POST SOLICITATION

BuyAccessible Wizard© Process Outputs

- EIT Determination
- Exception Documentation
- Government Product Accessibility Template
- Market Research Documentation
- Solicitation Language
- Evaluation Factors
- Acceptance Criteria

EIT Vendor Responsibility

- Voluntary Product Accessibility Template

GSA
U.S. General Services Administration

The BuyAccessible Program and the BuyAccessible Wizard© are sponsored by GSA - www.buyaccessible.gov

Opening Doors to IT

Review of ICT Refresh History

- §255 guidelines effective (1998)
- §508 standards effective (2001)
- Refresh process (2006 – 2008): TEITAC
- TEITAC report: April 3, 2008
- ANPRM: March 22, 2010
- Comments analyzed

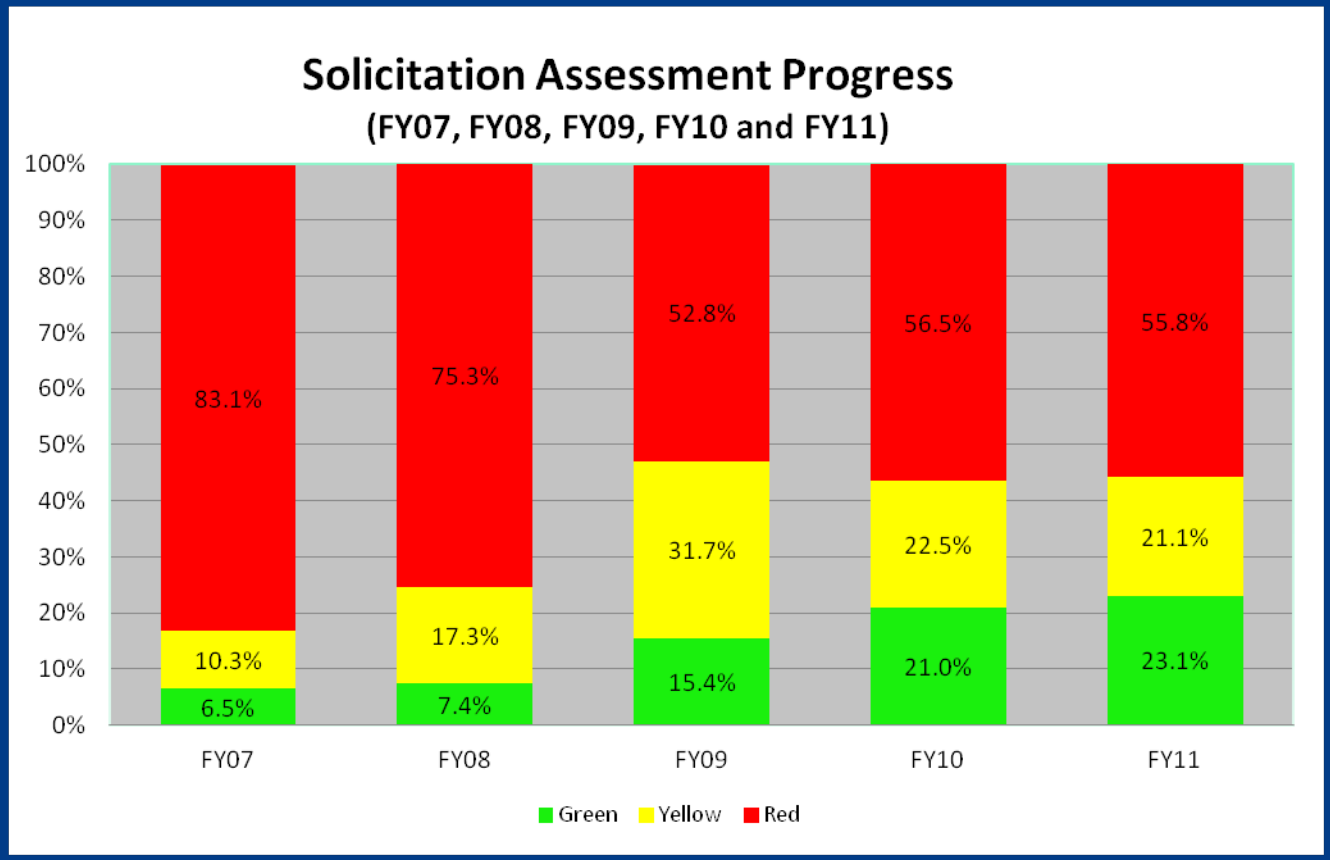
Next Steps

- 2nd ANPRM – December 2011
- Comment period and analyze comments
- Develop regulatory assessment
- Submit to Office of Management and Budget
- Publish NPRM in the Federal Register
- Final rule

FAR Part 39 Acquisition of IT states:

- When acquiring EIT, agencies must ensure that—
- (1) Federal employees with disabilities have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access and use by Federal employees who are not individuals with disabilities; and
- (2) Members of the public with disabilities seeking information or services from an agency have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access to and use of information and data by members of the public who are not individuals with disabilities.

How Well Are Federal Agencies Implementing Section 508?



VPATS and GPATS

- What is a VPAT?
- Voluntary Product Accessibility Template
- Who uses it?

- What is a GPAT?
- Government Product Accessibility Template
- How is it used?

Buy Accessible

- What is it?
- Who should use it?
- How can it help?
- Market Research
- How do I get started?
- Updated features
- Where do I get training?

What is the Buy Accessible Wizard?

- The Buy Accessible Wizard is a web-based tool that:
  - Guides users through the acquisition process, gathering data and providing information about electronic and information technology (EIT) and Section 508 compliance
  - Compiles a running summary documenting the process and its results
- The Buy Accessible Products and Services Directory
  - Access to vendor provided accessibility information

Who Should Use the Wizard?

- Requirements Officials – responsible for providing requirements for the procurement
- Technical specialists (IT) - determine IT requirements
- Micro purchasers (IT) with government purchase cards
- Procurement officials – responsible for monitoring procurements and regulations (gate keeper)
- Contract Specialists – responsible for preparing RFQ/RFP
- Contract officers – responsible for the contract award process (gate keeper)
- Anyone else involved in the procurement process

How Can the Wizard Help Your Agency?

- Standardize the acquisition process by documenting your procedures to demonstrate due diligence
- Maximize market research using vendor-supplied accessibility information about the commercial availability of accessible EIT products and services
- Tailor your solicitations by ensuring there is specific Section 508 language in each solicitation that includes EIT
  - Require accessibility information
  - Document accessibility as a factor in source selection
  - Document accessibility as a factor in inspection and acceptance

Market Research Why do it?

- It’s FAR Requirement
- It’s used to gauge the state of the EIT industry in meeting your requirements with products and services
- Method for identifying products that claim to meet section 508 requirements

Getting Started……

- Anyone can log in as a “Guest” user
  - No ID or password required
  - Can save or print output
  - Can restart process

Features

- Supplemental Guides for post-solicitation support

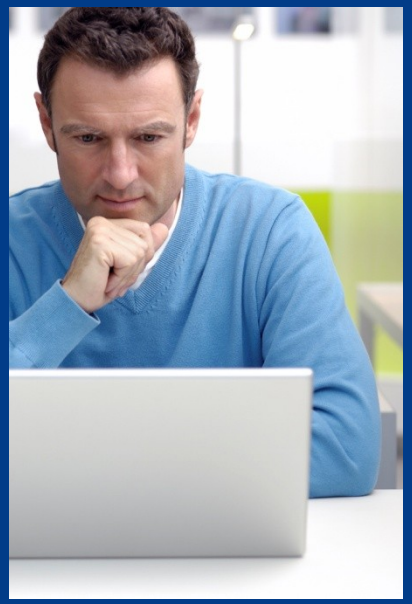
  - *Design Guide*: qualified development resources
  - *GPAT*: indicates how proposed solution addresses the applicable Section 508 requirements
  - *Evaluation Guide*: helps evaluate various proposals based on commercial availability
  - *Acceptance Guide*: generally accepted inspection and test methods for conformance (evaluate deliverables)

Features

Solicitation Documentation:

- Government Product/Service Accessibility Template *(GPAT)*
  - Specific requirements and vendor information
- Detailed *Solicitation Checklist* items
  - Program Need, Product Requirements, Service Requirements, Evaluation Factors, and deliverable Acceptance Criteria
- Suggested language in *Solicitation Template*

Section 508 BAW Quick Links



Why Quick Links?

- Some buyers are in a hurry.
- Some buyers know exactly what they want.
- Some buyers don’t want to take the time to learn about Section 508.

“Just get me to the bottom line and fast!”

What are Quick Links

- Inputs are common and standard deliverables (products and services)
- Current outputs are solicitation documents associated with these deliverables.
- Initial deliverables were selected with input from Section 508 coordinators and BuyAccessible staff
- Currently being validated by a Focus Group of expert federal staff

Quick Links Currently Provide

- Standard definition of the deliverable
- Standard product codes (UNSPC for now)
- GPAT:
  - Technical standards (Subpart B)
  - Functional performance criteria (Subpart C)
  - Information, documentation and support (Subpart D)
- Solicitation language:
  - Section 508 Program Need (Section B)
  - Section 508 Product Requirements (Section C)
  - Section 508 Evaluation Factors (Section M)
  - Section 508 Acceptance Criteria (Section E)

Future Developments

- Quick Links for vendors to assist in completing VPATs
- Comparison of Quick Links generated GPATs to available vendor VPATs

Buy Accessible Wizard Tutorial

What is the Wizard?

How does the Wizard support your procurement process?

Who should use the Wizard?

What will the Wizard do?

What won't the Wizard do?

How do I access the Wizard?

How do I log on to the Wizard?

How does the Wizard track your progress?

Other Wizard tips

Glossary

How does the Wizard support your procurement process?

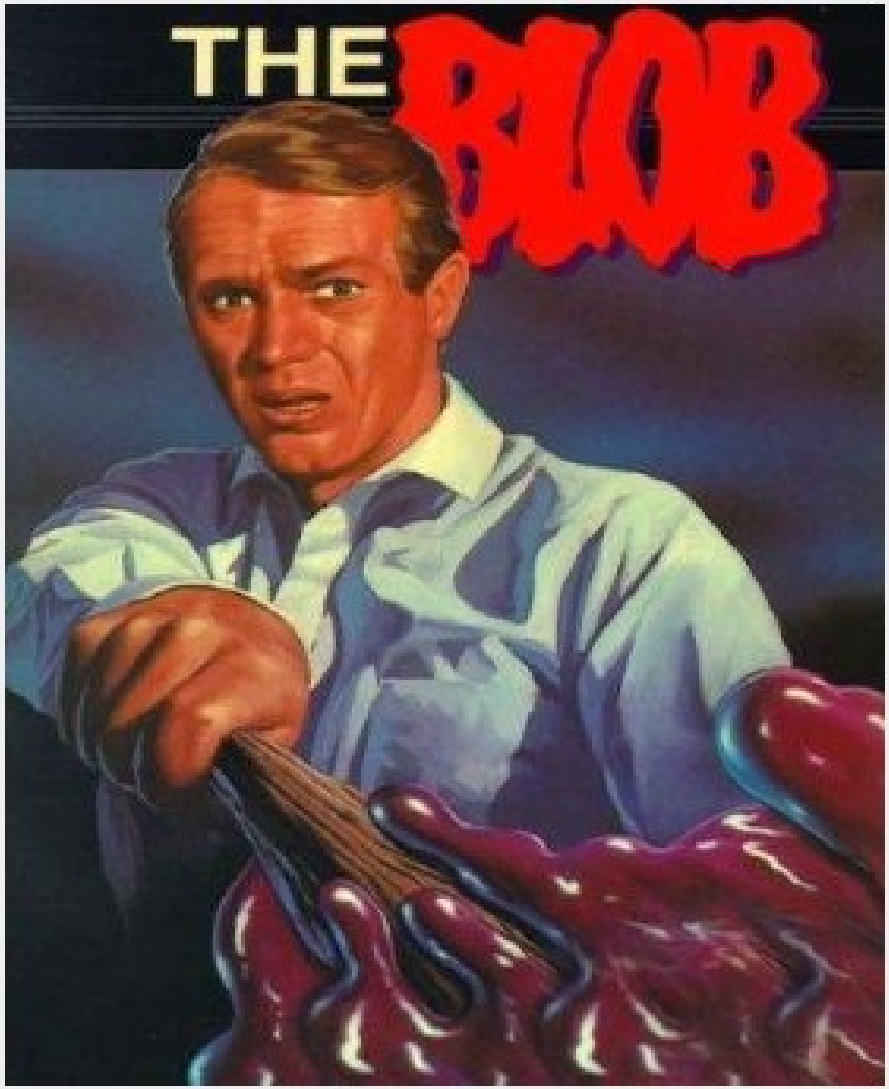
The Wizard it is the quickest and easiest way to:

- **Reduce time** required in acquisitions to ensure Section 508 compliance.
- Support **consistent interpretation** of compliance, in accordance with standards that have been vetted with stakeholder communities.
- Support **standard communication** with contracting.
- Develop comprehensive **compliance documentation**.
- Support Section 508 **compliance reporting**.
- Maintain **data for reuse** in other acquisitions.

Be Our Guest for a Test Drive

- We invite you to test drive the Buy Accessible Wizard

- To access the Buy Accessible Wizard go to: http://www.buyaccessible.gov



It’s the BLOB!!!!!!

No, it’s the new Section 508 Blog

http://buyaccessible.net/blog

Stop by and take a look!

Thank you

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Buy Accessible Wizard Demo